Numb. 7.

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Quicquid agunt Homines noſtri Farrago Libelli.

From *Saturday April* 23. to *Tueſday April* 26. 1709.

IT *is ſo juſt an Obſervation, That* Mocking is Catching, *that I am become an unhappy Inſtance of it, and am (in the ſame Manner that I have repreſented Mr.* Partridge) *my ſelf a dying Man, in Compariſon of the Vigour with which I firſt ſet out in the World. Had it been otherwiſe, you may be ſure I would not have pretended to have giv'n for News, as I did laſt Saturday, a Diary of the Siege of* Troy. *But Man is a Creature very inconſiſtent with himſelf: The Greateſt Heroes are ſometimes Fearful; the Spritelieſt Wits at ſome Hours Dull; and the Greateſt Politicians on ſome Occaſions* Whimſical. *But I ſhall not pretend to palliate, or excuſe the Matter; for I find, by a Calculation of my own Nativity, that I cannot hold out with any tolerable Wit longer than 'till Two Minutes after Twelve a Clock at Night between the* 18th *and* 19th *of the next Month. For which Space of Time, you may ſtill expect to hear from me, but no longer, except you will tranſmit to me, to work upon, the Occurrences you meet with relating to your Amours, or any other Subject within the Rules by which I have propoſed to walk. If any Gentleman or Lady ſends to* Iſaac Bickerſtaff *Eſq; at Mr.* Morphew's *near* Stationers-Hall, *by the Penny-Poſt paid, the Grief or Joy of their Soul, what they think fit of the Matter ſhall be related in Colours as much to their Advantage, as thoſe in which* Gervaſe *has drawn the Agreeable* Chloe. *But ſince, without ſuch Aſſiſtance, I frankly confeſs, and am ſenſible, that I have not a Month's Wit more, I think I ought, while I am in my ſound Health and Senſes, to make my Will and Teſtament; which I do in Manner and Form following:*

Imprimis, *I give to the Stock-jobbers about the Exchange of* London, *as a Security for the Truſts daily repoſed in them, all my Real Eſtate; which I do hereby veſt in the ſaid Body of worthy Citizens for ever.*

Item, *Foraſmuch as it is very hard to keep Land in Repair without ready Caſh, I do, out of my Perſonal Eſtate, beſtow the Bear-ſkin, which I have frequently lent to ſeveral Societies about this Town, to ſupply their Neceſſities. I ſay, I give alſo the ſaid Bears-kin, as an immediate Fund to the ſaid Citizens for ever.*

I do hereby appoint a certain Number of the ſaid Citizens to take all the Cuſtom-houſe, or Cuſtomary Oaths, concerning all Goods Imported by the whole City, ſtrictly directing, That ſome ſelect Members, and not the whole Number of a Body Corporate, ſhould be perjured.

I forbid all N---s and Perſons of Q---ty, to watch Bargains near and about the Exchange, to the Diminution and Wrong of the ſaid Stock-jobbers.

Thus far, in as brief and intelligible a Manner as any Will can appear, 'till it is explain'd by the Learned, I have diſpoſed of my Real and Perſonal Eſtate: But, as I am an Adept, I have by Birth an equal Right to give alſo an indefeaſible Title to my Endowments and Qualifications; which I do in the following Manner:

I give my Chaſtity to all Virgins who have withſtood their Market.

I give my Courage among all who are aſham'd of their diſtreſſed Friends, all Sneakers in Aſſemblies, and Men who ſhow Valour in Common Converſation.

I give my Wit, (as Rich Men give to the Rich) among ſuch as think they have enough already. And in caſe they ſhall not accept of the Legacy, I give it to Bentivolio, *to defend his Works from time to time, as he ſhall think fit to publiſh 'em.*

I beſtow my Learning upon the Honourary Members of the Royal Society.

Now for the Diſpoſal of this Body.

As theſe Eyes muſt one Day ceaſe to gaze on Teraminta, *and this Heart ſhall one Day pant no more for her Indignation: That is to ſay, ſince this Body muſt be Earth, I ſhall commit it to the Duſt in a Manner ſuitable to my Character. Therefore, as there are thoſe who diſpute, whether there is any ſuch Real Perſon as* Iſaac Bickerſtaff *or not? I ſhall excuſe all Perſons who appear what they really are, from coming to my Funeral. But all thoſe who are, in their Way of Life,* Perſonæ *as the* Latins *have it, Perſons aſſum'd, and who appear what they really are not, are hereby invited to that Solemnity.*

The Body ſhall be carried by Six Watchmen, who are never ſeen in the Day.

Item, *The Pall ſhall be held up by the Six moſt known Pretenders to Honeſty, Wealth, and Power, who are not poſſeſs'd of any of them. The Two Firſt, an Half-Lawyer, a Compleat Juſtice. The Two next, a Chymiſt, a Projector. The Third Couple, a Treaſury Sollicitor, and a Small Courtier.*

To make my Funeral (what that Solemnity, when done to common Men, really is in it ſelf) a very Farce; and ſince all Mourners are meer Actors on theſe Occaſions, I ſhall deſire thoſe who are profeſſedly ſuch to attend me. I humbly therefore beſeech Mrs. Barry *to act once more, and be my Widow. When ſhe ſwoons away at the Church-Porch, I appoint the Merry Sir* John Falſtaff, *and the Gay Sir* Harry Wildair, *to ſupport her. I deſire Mr.* Penkethman *to follow in the Habit of a Cardinal, and Mr.* Bullock *in that of a Privy Councellor. To make up the reſt of the Appearance, I deſire all the Ladies from the Balconies to weep with Mrs.* Barry, *as they hope to be Wives and Widows themſelves. I invite all, who have nothing elſe to do, to accept of Gloves and Scarves.*

Thus, with the Great Charles V. *of Spain, I reſign the Glories of this Tranſitory World: Yet, at the ſame time, to ſhow you my Indifference, and that my Deſires are not too much fix'd upon any Thing, I own to you, I am as willing to ſtay as go: Therefore leave it in the Choice of my Gentle Readers, whether I ſhall hear from them, or they hear no more from me.*

White's Chocolate-houſe, April 25.

After-Day being a Time when you can't well meet with any but humble Adventures; and there being ſuch a Thing as low Gallantry, as well as a low Comedy, Colonel *Ramble* and my ſelf went early this Morning into the Fields, which were ſtrew'd with Shepherds and Shepherdeſſes, but indeed of a different Turn from the Simplicity of thoſe of *Arcadia*. Every Hedge was conſcious of more than the Repreſentations of enamour'd Swains admit of. While we were ſurveying the Crowd around us, we ſaw at a Diſtance a Company coming towards *Pancras*-Church; but tho' there was not much Diſorder, we thought we ſaw the Figure of a Man ſtuck through with a Sword, and at every Step ready to fall (if not ſupported by a Woman by his Side;) others following Two and Two. When we came nearer this Appearance, who ſhould it be but Monſ. *Guardeloop*, mine and *Ramble*'s *French* Taylor, attended by others, leading one of Madam *Depingle*'s Maids to the Church, in order to their Eſpouſals. It was his Sword tuck'd ſo high above his Waſt, and the Circumflex which Perſons of his Profeſſion take in their Walking, made him appear at a Diſtance wounded and falling. But the Morning being rainy, methought the March to this Wedding was but too lively a Picture of Wedlock it ſelf. They ſeem'd both to have a Month's Mind to make the beſt of their Way ſingle; yet both tugg'd Arm in Arm; and when the poor Fellow made a falſe Step, he was but deeper in the Mire, by endeavouring to pull out his Companion, and yet without helping her. The Bridegroom's Feathers in his Hat all droop'd,

XUM

droop'd, one of his Shoes loſt an Heel. In ſhort, he was in his whole Perſon and Dreſs ſo extremely ſous'd, that there did not appear one Inch or ſingle Thread about him unmarried. Pardon me, that the melancholy Object ſtill dwells upon me ſo far as to reduce me to Punning: However, we attended to the Chappel, where we ſtaid to hear the irrevocable Words pronounc'd upon our old Servant, and made the beſt of our Way to Town. I took a Reſolution to forbear all married Perſons, or any in Danger of being ſuch, for one Four and twenty Hours at leaſt; therefore dreſs'd, and went to viſit *Florimell*, the vaineſt Thing in Town, where I knew would drop in Colonel *Picket*, juſt come from the Camp, her profeſs'd Admirer. He is of that Order of Men who has much Honour and Merit, but withal a Coxcomb; the other of that Set of Females, who has Innocence and Wit, but the Firſt of Coquets. It is eaſy to believe, Theſe muſt be Admirers of each other. She ſays, The Colonel rides the beſt of any Man in *England*: The Colonel ſays, She talks the beſt of any Woman. At the ſame Time, he underſtands Wit juſt as ſhe does Horſemanſhip. But the Colonel is juſt now diſmiſſing his Chair, and coming up. Before he enters, you are to know, theſe extraordinary Perſons ſee each other daily. They themſelves, as well as the Town, think it will be a Match: But it can never happen that they can come to the Point; for inſtead of addreſſing to each other, they ſpend their whole Time in Reports of themſelves: He is ſatisfied if he can convince her he is a fine Gentleman, and a Man of Conſequence; and ſhe, in appearing to him an accompliſh'd Lady and a Wit, without further Deſign. Thus he tells her of his Manner of poſting his Men at ſuch a Paſs, with the Numbers he commanded on that Detachment: She tells him, how ſhe was dreſs'd on ſuch a Day at Court, and what Offers were made her that Week following. She ſeems to hear the Repitition of his Men's Names with Admiration; but ſhe waits only to anſwer him with as falſe a Muſter of Lovers. They talk to each other not to be inform'd, but approv'd. Thus they are ſo like, that they are to be ever diſtant, and the Parallel Lines may run together for ever, but never meet.

Will's Coffee-houſe, April 25.

This Evening, the Comedy call'd *Epſom-Wells* was acted for the Benefit of Mr. *Bullock*, who, tho' he is a Perſon of much Wit and Ingenuity, has a peculiar Talent of looking like a Fool, and therefore excellently well qualified for the Part of *Biskett* in this Play. I cannot indeed ſufficiently admire his Way of bearing a Beating, as he does in this Drama, and that with ſuch a Natural Air and Propriety of Folly, that one cannot help wiſhing the Whip in one's own Hand; ſo richly does he ſeem to deſerve his Chaſtiſement. Skilful Actors think it a very peculiar Happineſs to play in a Scene with ſuch as Top their Parts. Therefore I cannot but ſay, when the Judgment of any good Author directs him to write a Beating for Mr. *Bullock* from Mr. *Williams Penkethman*, or for Mr. *William Penkethman* from Mr. *Bullock*, thoſe excellent Players ſeem to be in their moſt ſhining Circumſtances, and pleaſe me more, but with a different Sort of Delight, than that which I receive from thoſe Grave Scenes of *Brutus* and *Caſſius*, or *Anthony* and *Ventidius*. The whole Comedy is very juſt, and the Low Part of Humane Life repreſented with much Humour and Wit.

St. James's Coffee-houſe, April 25.

We are advis'd from *Vienna*, by Letters of the 20th Inſtant, That the Emperor hath lately added 20 new Members to his Council of State, but they have not yet taken their Places at the Board. Marſhal *Taun* is return'd from *Baden*, his Health being ſo well reeſtabliſh'd by the Baths of that Place, that he deſigns to ſet out next Week for *Turin*, to his Command of the Imperial Troops in the Service of the Duke of *Savoy*. His Imperial Majeſty has advanc'd his Brother Count *Henry Taun* to be a Brigadier, and a Councellor of the Aulick Council of War. Theſe Letters report, That King *Staniſlaus* and the *Swediſh* General *Craſſau* are directing their March to the *Nieper*, to join the King of *Sweden*'s Army in *Ukrania*; That the States of *Auſtria* have furniſh'd Marſhal *Heiſter* with a conſiderable Sum of Money, to enable him to puſh on the War vigorouſly in *Hungary*, where all Things as yet are in perfect Tranquillity; And that General *Thungen* has been very importunate for a ſpeedy Reinforcement of the Forces on the *Upper Rhine*, repreſenting at the ſame Time, what Miſeries the Inhabitants muſt neceſſarily undergo, if the Deſigns of *France* on thoſe Parts be not ſpeedily and effectually prevented.

Letters from *Rome*, dated the 13th Inſtant, ſay, That on the preceding *Sunday* his Holineſs was carried in an open Chair from St. *Peter*'s to St. *Mary*'s, attended by the Sacred College in Cavalcade; and, after Maſs, diſtributed ſeveral Dowries for the Marriage of poor and diſtreſs'd Virgins. The Proceedings of that Court are very dilatory concerning the Recognition of King *Charles*, notwithſtanding the preſſing Inſtances of the Marquis *de Prie*, who has declar'd, that if this Affair be not wholly concluded by the 15th Inſtant, he will retire from that Court, and order the Imperial Troops to return into the Eccleſiaſtical State. On the other hand, the Duke of *Anjou*'s Miniſter has, in the Name of his Maſter, demanded of his Holineſs to explain himſelf on that Affair; which, 'tis ſaid, will be finally determined in a Conſiſtory to be held on *Monday* next; the Duke *d'Uzeda* deſigning to delay his Departure till he ſees the Iſſue. Theſe Letters alſo ſay, that the Court was mightily alarm'd at the News which they receiv'd by an Expreſs from *Ferrara*, that General *Boneval*, who commands in *Commachio*, has ſent Circular Letters to the Inhabitants of St. *Alberto*, *Longaſtrino*, *Fillo*, and other adjacent Parts, enjoining them to come and ſwear Fealty to the Emperor, and receive new Inveſtitures of their Fiefs from his Hands. Letters from other Parts of *Italy* ſay, that the King of *Denmark* continues at *Lucca*; that 4 *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Men of War were ſeen off of *Oneglia*, bound for *Final*, in order to tranſport the Troops deſign'd for *Barcelona*; that her Majeſty's Ship the *Colcheſter* arriv'd at *Leghorn* the 4th Inſtant from *Port Mahon*, with Advice, that Major General *Stanhope* deſign'd to part from thence the 1ſt Inſtant with 6 or 7000 Men to attempt the Relief of the Caſtle of *Alicant*.

Our laſt Advices from *Berlin*, bearing Date the 27th Inſtant, import, That the King was gone to *Linum*, and the Queen to *Mecklenburg*; but that their Majeſties deſign'd to return the next Week to *Oranienburg*, where a great Chaſe of Wild-Beaſts was prepar'd for their Diverſion, and from thence they deſign to proceed together to *Potſdam*; That the Prince Royal was ſet out for *Brabant*, but intended to make ſome ſhort Stay at *Hanover*. Theſe Letters alſo inform us, That they are advis'd from *Oſory*, that the King of *Sweden*, being on his March towards *Holki*, met General *Renne* with a Detachment of *Muſcovites*, who placing ſome Regiments in Ambuſcade, attack'd the *Swedes* in their Rear, and putting them to Flight, kill'd 2000 Men, the King himſelf having his Horſe ſhot under him.

Letters from *Hanover* of the 26th Inſtant, *N. S.* ſay, That tho' it had been given out, the Electoral Prince would make another Campagne, yet now they believe his going for *Flanders* this Summer is very uncertain.

We hear from *Copenhagen*, That the Ice being broke, the *Sound* is again open for the Ships; and that they hop'd his Majeſty would return ſooner than they at firſt expected.

Letters from the *Hague*, dated *May* the 4th *N. S.* ſay, That an Expreſs arrived there on the 1ſt from Prince *Eugene* to his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough*. The States are advis'd, That the Auxiliaries of *Saxony* were arriv'd on the Frontiers of the United Provinces; as alſo, that the Two Regiments of *Wolfembuttel*, and 4000 Troops from *Wirtemberg*, which are to ſerve in *Flanders*, are in full March thither. Letters from *Flanders* ſay, That the great Convoy of Ammunition and Proviſions which ſet out from *Ghent* for *Liſle*, was ſafely arrived at *Courtray*.

We hear from *Paris*, That the King has order'd the Militia on the Coaſts of *Normandy* and *Bretagne* to be in a Readineſs to march; and that the Court was in Apprehenſion of a Deſcent, to animate the People to riſe in the midſt of their preſent Hardſhips.

They write from *Spain*, That the Pope's Nuncio left *Madrid* the 10th of *April*, in order to go to *Bayonne*; that the Marquis *de Bay* was at *Badajos* to obſerve the Motions of the *Portugueze*; and that the Count *d'Eſtain*, with a Body of 5000 Men, was on his March to attack *Gironne*. The Duke of *Anjou* has depoſed the Biſhop of *Lerida*, as being a Favourer of the Intereſt of King *Charles*; and has ſummoned a Convocation at *Madrid*, compos'd of the Archbiſhop, Biſhops and States of that Kingdom, wherein he hopes they will come to a Reſolution to ſend for no more Bulls to *Rome*.

... Hall, where Advertiſements are taken in.